

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 050140

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SECSTATE 12 MARCH, FROM OTTAWA RPTD
FOR YOU. QUOTE:

C O N F I D E N T I A L OTTAWA 0713

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, LA, CA

SUBJECT: CANADIAN PROPOSAL TO ADJOURN ICC/LAOS SINE DIE

REF: VIENTIANE 1737

1. EXTAFF DIRECTOR FOR EAST ASIA MLGAT TOLD EMBOFF
THAT CANADIAN EMBASSY MINISTER WILLIAMSON HAD CALLED
ON DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY STEARNS TO INFORM HIM OF
GOC INTENTION TO PROPOSE ADJOURNMENT SINE DIE OF
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ICC/LAOS. LAOTIAN GOVERNMENT WILL BE INFORMED TODAY,

MARCH 12. GOC PLANS TO CALL ICC MEETING IN NEXT TWO OR THREE WEEKS TO PUT THIS PROPOSITION.

2. MOLGAT WAS AWARE OF USG NEGATIVE REACTION TO CANADIAN PROPOSAL. WILLIAMSON REPORTED THAT STEARNS SAID TIMING WAS UNFORTUNATE, AND THAT ICC HAD PERFORMED AND COULD STILL PERFORM A USEFUL ROLE IN LAOS. MOLGAT THOUGHT LAOTIAN REACTION WOULD BE EVEN STRONGER. HOWEVER, GOC FELT ICC HAD LONG OUTLIVED ITS USEFULNESS, AND INTENDED TO PROCEED WITH ITS PROPOSAL.

3. SHOULD OTHER ICC MEMBERS REFUSE TO ACCEPT ADJOURNMENT, WHICH MOLGAT PERSONALLY THOUGHT LIKELY, GOC WOULD HAVE TO REVIEW ITS POSITION. MLGAT THOUGHT MOST LIKELY OUTCOME WOULD BE THAT CANADA WOULD WITHDRAW ITS DELEGATION WITHOUT FORMALLY QUITTING ICC/LAOS. A SIMILAR ACTION HAD BEEN PROPOSED BUT EVENTUALLY REJECTED IN 1969. PORTER UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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